IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of configuring a server computer having a connection pool, comprising:

        initializing the connection pool;

        generating heuristic override information, wherein the heuristic override information comprises a plurality of rules that specify a time period and a maximum number of connections for that time period;

        receiving a heuristic timer interrupt event;

        in response to the heuristic timer interrupt event;

                determining a current time of day;

                determining a connection current pool size; and

                adding new connections to the connection pool if the current connection pool size is less than the specified maximum number of connections associated with the current time of day.

        wherein the heuristic override information comprises a heuristic override setting and a time period; and

        modifying the connection pool using the heuristic override information.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the connection pool is initialized using a plurality of initial settings.

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3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of initial settings comprises a maximum number of connections.

4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~4~~ 1, wherein the heuristic override setting comprises a maximum number of connections.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the time period comprises at least one of a time of day, a day of week, and a day of year.

7.   (Currently Amended) A method of operating a server, comprising:

    initializing a connection pool with an initial maximum number of connections;

    applying heuristic information to modify the initial maximum number of connections, wherein the heuristic information comprises a maximum number of connections override and a time period associated with the override;

    in response to receiving a request to connect:

        detecting a current number of connections;

        determining a current time of day; and

if the current number of connections is less than the modified

maximum number of connections for the time period associated with

the current time of day, creating a new connection.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

detecting a connection having an unused time greater than a time-out

value: and

deleting the connection.

9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising

in response to receiving a request to connect, resetting an unused time

associated with every available connections.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising if the current number of

connections is greater than or equal to the maximum number of connections, waiting for a

connection to become available.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising in response to receiving a close connection request for a connection, indicating the connection as available.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the connection pool comprises Java Database Connectivity connections.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the connection pool comprises Java 2 Connector connections.

15.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product, comprising:

(a) a program configured to perform a method of operating a server, comprising:

initializing a connection pool with an initial maximum number of connections;

applying heuristic information to modify the initial maximum number of connections, wherein the heuristic information comprises a maximum number of connections override and a time period associated with the override;

in response to receiving a request to connect:

detecting a current number of connections;

determining a current time of day; and

if the current number of connections is less than the modified maximum number of connections for the time period associated with the current time of day, creating a new connection; and

(b) a tangible computer-readable storage media bearing the program.

16.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the program comprises an application server.

17.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the

tangible computer-readable storage media is chosen from the group consisting of:

information permanently stored on non-writable storage; media and alterable information

stored on writable storage media.

18.   (Currently Amended) A method of managing a connection pool, the method

comprising:

> instructing a computing device to initialize a connection pool; and
>
> instructing the computing device to modify the connection pool using heuristic
> override information, wherein the heuristic override information comprises a
> plurality of maximum number of connections overrides and a time period
> associated with each override.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising generating the heuristic

override information.

20.   (Canceled)

21.   (Canceled)

22.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~21~~ 1, further comprising, in response to the heuristic interrupt event, initializing a timeout value for all available connections in the connection pool

23.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~21~~ 1, further comprising:

receiving a connection timer interrupt event; and

in response to the connection timer interrupt event:

determining a connection current pool size; and

destroying idle connections if the current connection pool size is ~~less~~ greater than ~~the than the~~ a specified ~~maximum~~ minimum number of connections associated with the current time of day.

Please add the following new claims:

24. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein modifying the connection pool using the heuristic override information comprises:

receiving a timer event;

in response to the timer event:

determining a current time;

determining a current number of connections; and

if the current number of connections greater than the specified maximum number of connections associated with the current time:

adding at least one new connections to the connection pool; and

initializing timeout values for all available connections in the

connection pool.

25. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein modifying the connection pool using the heuristic override information comprises:

receiving a connection timer event;

in response to the connection timer event:

determining a current time;

determining a current number of connections:

if a current number of connections is greater than the specified maximum associated with the current time:

detecting one or more timed-out idle connection;

destroying the one or more timed-out idle connections; and

if a current number of connections is below a specified minimum associated with the current time:

resetting time-out values for all of the connections in the pool.